



Division of Environmental Health Services:

- 385 North Arrowhead Avenue – San Bernardino, CA 92415-0160 – (909) 884-4056
- 8575 Haven Avenue, Suite 130 – Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730-9105 – (909) 948-5058
- 15900 Smoke Tree, Suite 131 – Hesperia, CA 92345 – (760) 995-8154
- San Bernardino County Vector Control Program
2355 East 5th Street – San Bernardino, CA 92410-5201 – (909) 388-4600

TRUDY RAYMUNDO
Assistant Director of Public Health

MAXWELL OHIKHUARE, M.D.
Health Officer

TERRI WILLIAMS, R.E.H.S.
Division Chief, Environmental Health Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 22, 2011
NR #11-46

CONTACT: RAY BRITAIN, R.E.H.S.
PROGRAM MANAGER
(909) 387-4688

TWO SENTINEL CHICKENS IN RIALTO TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS

San Bernardino. The State Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL) confirmed that two chickens from our flocks in Rialto tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) on July 11th, 2011. This is the first evidence of WNV in chickens and within the area served by our Program, the County of San Bernardino, Mosquito and Vector Control Program. A WNV-positive mosquito sample was reported on May 27th, 2011 by West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District in the western tip of San Bernardino County.

The California Department of Public Health encourages the public to participate in the WNV surveillance program, by reporting dead birds or squirrels to the State West Nile Virus toll-free hotline at (877) WNV- BIRD, or on-line at WWW.WNV.CA.GOV.

Property owners with pools are encouraged to keep them clean. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in unmaintained green pools and can fly up to 1.5 miles per hour, potentially transmitting the virus and impacting entire neighborhoods. Please report green pools and other sources of mosquito breeding to County of San Bernardino, Mosquito and Vector Control Program at (909) 388-4600.

San Bernardino County residents can protect themselves and their families from West Nile virus by taking these precautions:

- **Drain or Dump** - Remove all standing water around your property where mosquitoes lay eggs such as birdbaths, green swimming pools, ponds, old tires, buckets, clogged gutters, or even puddles from leaky sprinklers.
- **Dawn and Dusk** - Avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active.

- More -

GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
BRAD MITZELFELT, VICE-CHAIRMAN.....First District
JANICE RUTHERFORD.....Second District
JOSE GONZALES, CHAIR.....Fifth District
NEIL DERRY.....Third District
GARY C. OVITT.....Fourth District

- **Dress** - Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeved shirts that are loose fitting and light colored.
- **DEET** - Apply insect repellent containing DEET according to manufacturer's directions.
- **Doors** - Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes to prevent mosquitoes from entering home.

Horses are susceptible to WNV. A vaccine is available for horses and horse owners are advised to contact their veterinarians about vaccinations.

For more information, contact the County of San Bernardino, Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Services, Mosquito and Vector Control Program at 909-388-4600 or visit our website at www.sbcounty.gov/dehs.

#